

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

In reviewing the file for this application, Applicants note that the Examiner inadvertently did not indicate his consideration of the two U.S. patents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 6, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants attach a copy of a modified PTO-1449 form listing these two patents. Applicants request that the Examiner indicate his consideration of these documents by initialing and returning a copy of the attached PTO-1449 form.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17-29 and 80-92 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 13, 20, 80, 86, 91 and 92 are independent claim. Claims 66-79 and 93-95 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application directed to the subject matter of these claims. Claims 1, 13, 20, 80, 86 and 91 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17-29 and 80-95 were indicated as being allowable over the art of record. Applicants submit that the foregoing changes to claims 1, 13, 20, 80, 86 and 91 do not substantively affect the allowability of these claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17-29 and 80-95 should remain allowable.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

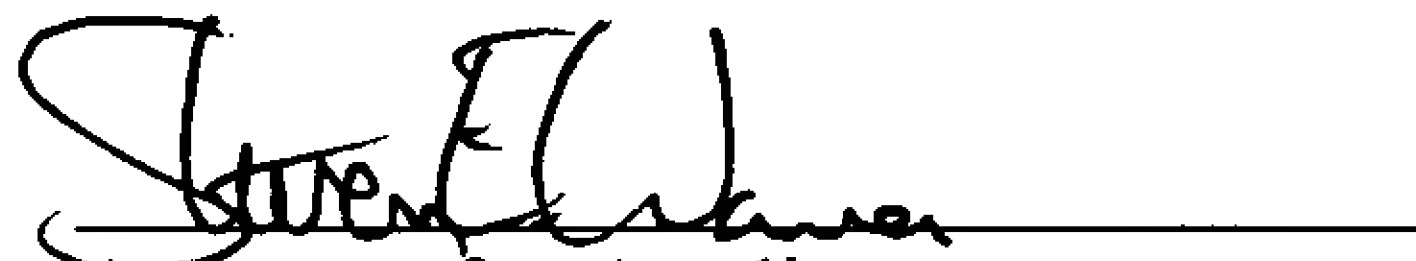
Claims 66-79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese patent document number 3-201493. Applicants submit that this document does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 66-79. Therefore, this rejection is respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, as discussed above, to expedite allowance of this application, claims 66-79 and 93-95 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, all pending claims, namely, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17-29 and 80-92, being allowable, Applicants submit that the instant Application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early notice of allowance are requested.

Applicants request that the Examiner contact their undersigned representative should any matters be deemed outstanding precluding allowance of the instant application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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